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WEDNESDAY, ... APRIL 13, 1870.

Free Schools.

In 1847, when the English Government asked from the House of Commons a grant of £100,000 for the education of the people, a memorable debate occurred in which Lord Macauley participated. His speech on this occasion was one of the ablest and most exhaustive ever made on the subject.

The position assumed by the Democracy of this State upon this question of education is so similar to that occupied by the opposition to the measure referred to, that Lord Macauley's speech becomes of peculiar interest to our people. Its importance and pertinence to the issue now fairly made between the two parties is our excuse for giving it so much of our space.

In reply to such arguments as those advanced by the leading Democrats in the late Convention upon the question of popular education, Lord Macauley said:

"I believe, sir, that it is the right and the duty of the State to provide means of education for the common people. This proposition seems to me to be implied in every definition that has ever yet been given of the functions of a government. * * But the very narrowest sphere that ever was assigned to governments by any school of political philosophy is quite wide enough for my purpose. On one point all the disputants are agreed. They unanimously acknowledge that it is the duty of every government to take order for giving security to the person and property of the members of the community.

* * * "Let Adam Smith answer that question for me. His authority, always high, is, on this subject, entitled to peculiar respect, because he extremely disliked busy, prying, interfering governments. He was for leaving literature, arts, sciences, to take care of themselves. He was not friendly to ecclesiastical establishments. He was of opinion that the State ought not to meddle with the education of the rich. But he has expressly told us that a distinction is to be made, particularly in a commercial and highly civilized society, between the education of the rich and the education of the poor. The education of the poor, he says, is a matter which deeply concerns the commonwealth. Just as the magistrate ought to interfere for the purpose of preventing the leprosy from spreading among the people, he ought to interfere for the purpose of stopping the progress of the moral distempers which are inseparable from ignorance. Nor can this duty be neglected without danger to the public peace. If you leave the multitude uninstructed, there is serious risk that religious animosities may produce the most dreadful disorders. The most dreadful disorders! Those are Adam Smith's own words: and prophetic words they were. Scarcely had he given this warning to our rulers, when his prediction was fulfilled in a manner never to be forgotten. I speak of the No Popery riots of 1780. I do not know that I could find in all history a stronger proof of the proposition, that the ignorance of the common people makes the property, the limbs, the lives of all classes insecure. Without the shadow of a grievance, at the summons of a madman, a hundred thousand people rise in insurrection. During a whole week, there is anarchy in the greatest and wealthiest of European cities. The Parliament is besieged. Your predecessor sits trembling in his chair, and expects every moment to see the door beaten in by the ruffians whose roar he hears all round the house. The peers are pulled out of their coaches. The bishops in their lawn are forced to fly over the tiles. The chapels of foreign ambassadors, buildings made sacred by the law of nations, are destroyed. The house of the Chief-Justice is demolished. The little children of the Prime Minister are taken out of their beds and laid in their night clothes on the table of the Horse Guards, the only safe asylum from the fury of the rabble. The prisons are opened. Highwaymen, housebreakers, murderers come forth to swell the mob by which they have been set free. Thirty-six fires are blazing at once in London. Then comes the retribution. Count up all the wretches who were shot, who were hanged, who were crushed, who drank themselves to death at the rivers of gin which ran down Holborn Hill; and you will find that battles have been lost and won with a smaller sacrifice of life. And what was the cause of this calamity, a calamity which, in the history of London, ranks with the great plague and the great fire? The cause was the ignorance of a population which had been suffered, in the neighborhood of palaces, theatres, temples, to grow up as rude and stupid as any tribe of tattooed cannibals in New Zealand—I might say as any drove of beasts in Smithfield Market.

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"This, then, is my argument. It is the duty of government to protect our persons and property from danger. The gross ignorance of the common people is a principal cause of danger to our persons and property. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to take care that the common people shall not be grossly ignorant.

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"I say, therefore, that the education of the people is not only a means, but the best means, of attaining that which all allow to be a chief end of government; and, if this be so, it passes my faculties to understand how any man can gravely contend that government has nothing to do with the education of the people.

"My confidence in my opinion is strengthened when I recollect that in common with all the greatest law-givers, statesmen and political philosophers of all nations and ages, with all the most illustrious champions of civil and spiritual freedom, and especially with those men whose names were once held in the highest veneration by the Protestant Dissenters of England. I might cite many of the most venerable names of the old world; but I would rather cite the example of that country which the supppрters of the voluntary system here are always recommending to us as a pattern. Go back to the days when the little society which has expanded into the opulent and enlightened commonwealth of Massachusetts began to exist. Our modern Dissenters will scarcely, I think, venture to speak contumeliously of those Puritans, whose spirit Laud and his High Commission Court could not subdue, of those Puritans who were willing to leave home and kindred, and all the comforts and refinements of civilized life, to cross the ocean, to fix their abode in forests, among wild beasts and wild men, rather than commit the sin of performing, in the house of God, one gesture which they believed to be displeasing to Him. Did those brave exiles think it inconsistent with civil or religious freedom that the State should take charge of the education of the people? No, sir; one of the earliest laws enacted by the Puritan colonists was that every township, as soon as the Lord had increased it to the number of fifty houses, should uppoint one to teach all children to write and read, and that every township of a hundred houses should set up a grammar school. Nor have the descendants of those who made this law ever ceased to hold that the public authorities were bound to provide the means of public instruction. Nor is this doctrine confined to New England. "Educate the people" was the first admonition addressed by Penn to the colony which he founded. "Educate the people" was the legacy of Washington to the nation which he had saved. "Educate the people" was the unceasing exhortation of Jefferson; and I quote Jefferson with peculiar pleasure, because of all the eminent men that have ever lived, Adam Smith himself not excepted, Jefferson was the one who most abhorred everything like meddling on the part of governments. Yet the chief business of his later years was to establish a good system of State education in Virginia.

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"Now, sir, it seems to me that, on the same principle on which government ought to superintend and to reward the soldier, government ought to superintend and to reward the schoolmaster. I mean, of course, the schoolmaster of the common people. That his calling is useful, that his calling is necessary, it will hardly be denied. Yet it is clear that his services will not be adequately remunerated if he is left to be remunerated by those whom he teaches, or by the voluntary contributions of the charitable. Is this disputed? Look at the facts. You tell us that schools will multiply and flourish exceedingly, if the government will only abstain from interfering with them? Has not the government long abstained from interfering with them? Has not everything been left—through many years—to individual exertion? If it were true that education, like trade, thrives most where the magistrate meddles least, the common people of England would now be the best educated in the world. Our schools would be model schools. Every one would have a well chosen little library, excellent maps, a small but neat apparatus for experiments in natural philosophy. A grown person unable to read and write would be pointed at like Giant O'Brien or the Polish Count. Our schoolmasters would be as eminently expert in all that relates to teaching as our cutlers, our cottonspinners, our engineers are allowed to be in their respective callings. They would, as a class, be held in high consideration; and their gains would be such that it would be easy to find men of respectable character and attainments to fill up vacancies.

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"Turn from the registers of prisoners to the registers of marriages. You will find that about a hundred and thirty thousand couples were married in the year 1844. More than forty thousand of the bridegrooms and more than sixty thousand of the brides did not sign their names, but made their marks. Nearly one-third of the men and nearly one-half of the women, who are in the prime of life, who are to be the parents of the Englishmen of the next generation, who are to bear a chief part in forming the minds of the Englishmen of the next generation, cannot write their own names. Remember, too, that, though people who cannot write their own names must be grossly ignorant, people may write their own names and yet have very little knowledge. Tens of thousands who were able to write their names had in all probability received only the wretched education of a common day school. We know what such a school too often is; a room crusted with filth, without light, without air, with a heap of fuel in one corner and a brood of chickens in another; the only machinery of instruction a dogeared spellingbook and a broken slate; the masters the refuse of all other callings—discarded footmen, ruined peddlers, men who cannot work a sum in the rule of three, men who cannot write a common letter without blunders, men who do not know whether the earth is a sphere or a cube, men who do not know whether Jerusalem is in Asia or America. And to such men, men to whom none of us would entrust the key to his cellar, we have entrusted the mind of the rising generation, and, with the mind of the rising generation, the freedom, the happiness, the glory of the country.

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"But, Sir, if the state of the southern part of our island has furnished me with one strong argument, that of the northern part furnishes me with another argument, which is, if possible, still more decisive. A hundred and fifty years ago England was one of the best governed and most prosperous countries in the world: Scotland was perhaps the rudest and poorest country that could lay any claim to civilisation. The name of Scotchman was then uttered in this part of the island with contempt. The ablest Scotch statesman contemplated the degraded state of their poorer countrymen with a feeling approaching to despair. It is well known that Fletcher of Saltoun, a brave and accomplished man, a man who had drawn his sword for liberty, who had suffered proscription and exile for liberty, was so much disgusted and dismayed by the misery, the ignorance, the idleness, the lawlessness of the common people, that he proposed to make many thousands [of them slaves. Nothing, he thought, but the discipline which kept order and enforced exertion among the negroes of a sugar colony, nothing but the lash and the stocks, could reclaim the vagabonds who infested every part of Scotland from their indolent and predatory habits, and compel them to support themselves by steady labor. He therefore, soon after the Revolution, published a pamphlet, in which he earnestly, and, as I believe, from the mere impulse of humanity and patriotism, recommended to the Estates of the Realm this sharp remedy, which alone, as he conceived, could remove the evil. Within a few months after the publication of that pamphlet a very different remedy was applied. The Parliament which sate at Edinburgh passed an act for the establishment of parochial schools. What followed? An improvement such as the world had never seen, took place in the moral and intellectual character of the people. Soon, in spite of the rigor of the climate, in spite of the sterility of the earth, Scotland became a country which had no reason to envy the fairest portions of the globe. Wherever the Scotchman went—and there were few parts of the world to which he did not go—he carried his superiority with him. If he was admitted into a public office, he worked his way up to the highest post. If he got employment in a brewery or a factory, he was soon the foreman. If he took a shop, his trade was the best in the street. If he enlisted in the army, he became a color-sergeant. If he went to a colony, he was the most thriving planter there. The Scotchman of the seventeenth century had been spoken of in London as we speak of the Esquimaux. The Scotchman of the eighteenth century was an object, not of scorn, but of envy. The cry was that, wherever he came, he got more than his share; that, mixed with Englishman or mixed with Irishmen, he rose to the top as surely as oil rises to the top of water. And what had produced this great revolution? The Scotch air was still as cold, the Scotch rocks were still as bare as ever. All the natural qualities of the Scotchman were still what they had been when learned and benevolent men advised that he should be flogged, like a beast of burden, to his daily task. But the State had given him an education. That education was not, it is true, in all respects what it should have been. But, such as it was, it had done more for the bleak and dreary shores of the Forth and the Clyde than the richest of soils and the most genial of climates had done for Capua and Tarentum. Is there one member of this House, however strongly he may hold the doctrine that the Government ought not to interfere with the education of the people, who will stand up and say that, in his opinion, the Scotch would now have been a happier and a more enlightened people if they had been left, during the last five generations, to find instruction for themselves."

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

APRIL 5TH.—In the Senate, the House resolution directing inquiry into the loss of the Oneida was passed. The Georgia Bill was resumed, Senator Sumner speaking against the Bingham amendment. In the House, the bill establishing a Bureau of Education and discontinuing the Freedmen's Bureau, was passed. The Tariff bill was considered.

APRIL 6TH.—In the Senate, the Deficiency Appropriation bill was passed. The Georgia bill was made the order of the day for next Tuesday. In the House, Fernando Wood preferred charges against General Howard, attacking his honesty and official integrity. An investigation was ordered. Some progress was made on the Tariff bill.

APRIL 7TH.—A resolution was introduced in the Senate, directing an inquiry into the effect of the Fifteenth Amendment upon the Indians. The House passed the Diplomatic Deficiency bill.

APRIL 8TH.—A bill was introduced in the Senate, to transfer the Cherokee and Creek Indian tribes, in the Indian Territory, to the Western District of Arkansas. At the expiration of the morning hour, the Senate adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of General Thomas. In the House, a Bill was introduced, providing that after the present Congress, the House of Representatives shall be composed of 275 members, and of such members as any State thereafter admitted may be entitled to; and directing the Secretary of the Interior to ascertain from the preliminary Census Report of 1870, the basis of representation and apportionment of each State. Mr. Dawes introduced a resolution directing the Clerk to report by what authority $1,872 have been paid to the Washington *Chronicle* for advertising certain statements in relation to the 37th Congress.

APRIL 9TH.—No business of importance in the Senate. In the House, $2,000 was appropriated from the Contingent Fund to reimburse Gen. Butler for expenses incurred in defending himself against Wooley, imprisoned by the Impeachment Committee.

APRIL 10TH.—A resolution was adopted in the Senate, instructing the Agricultural Committee to report a bill providing for the proper fare and water for cattle transported by Railroad. The Tariff bill was under discussion in the Senate.

A good old Quaker lady, after listening to the extravagang yarn of a shopkeeper as long as her patience would allow, said to him: "Friend, what a pity it is a sin to lie, it seems so necessary to thy happiness."

GENERAL THOMAS.

Personal Recollections---His Appearance and Habits.

Respects Paid to His Memory by the Tennessee Congressmen.

Imposing Funeral Obsequies at Troy, New York.

The many brave boys from Tennessee, who served in the Union army under Gen. Thomas, will be interested in the following truthful descriptions of his character, habits and peculiarities:

THOMAS' APPEARANCE—IMPASSIVE MANNER—ANGER.

"Gen. Thomas was nearly six feet high, of large frame, and an imposing stature. His limbs were massive. He possessed a firm mouth, a square jaw, and a steady blue eye. He was habitually grave. He was seldom known to smile. Yet, though serious and undemonstrative, he was mild, and kind, and amiable in his actions. He often seemed cold and impassive, but certainly as careless about his own feelings as he was impervious to those of others. After the battle of Chicamauga, and when he must have been perfectly conscious that he had saved Rosecrans' army and the whole region, he sat half an hour drinking coffee, and did not once allude to the fight. No one would have known that there had been any. In battle he sat like a statue, with scarcely a motion, heedless of bullets, occasionally roused to enthusiasm by the success of one of his maneuvers, but blushing if his feeling was discovered. He was seldom moved to anger, but when it came it was frightful. An infantry colonel stole a horse from a Union farmer in Kentucky, who came to Thomas and complained. He poured out a torrent of invective upon the officer, pulled him from the horse, tore the epaulets from his shoulders, made him return the horse, and pay the farmer for his trouble.

HIS PERSONAL HABITS AND TASTES.

"Gen. Thomas was simple, severely so, in his habits of life and dress; yet he was an aristocrat in which there could be no guile. His was an aristocracy of worth, not of pride, of money, or position. He was a gentleman of the olden school, whose self-respect was too great to allow the commission of a dishonorable or a meretricious act. He never ate, even in the army, except from solid silver service, but always of plain, wholesome food. An indulgence in wines and liquors was the exception, and then never when a young man was present. Profanity found no place upon his lips. In all his service, those the most intimate never knew him to be thrown off his guard, or to give expression to a warm, hasty or indignant word. He never was compelled to apologize for wounds caused by indiscretion either in temper or language. He was a complete master of himself. His headquarters were always a model of neatness, sobriety and discipline. * * * He was so indifferent to all pomp and circumstance of war, on the other hand, that, though made a Major General on April 25, he had no stars on his coat until after the battle of Stone River, eight months afterwards; and they were put on by the strategy of his servant, at the instigation of some members of his staff. He wore his colonel's coat until the moment of his taking command at Mill Spring, though he had been a Brigadier General six months."—*Ind. Journal.*

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* has the following little story illustrating this phase of his character:

"Col. Watkins married the daughter of Gen. Rousseau about the close of the war. Just after the battle of Nashville, Watkins, then on Gen. Thomas' staff, approached the General with a free and cordial manner, as if the request he was about to make could not be denied: "General, you know I have a sweetheart, Miss —— Rosseau, whom I have not seen for — months. A leave of absence, if you please, for — weeks.' To the dismay of poor Watkins, Thomas shrugged his shoulders. Watkins, seeing that some intercession was necessary, reminded the General of his youth, the ardor of such years and such attachments, and referred to some probable history of the General in such matters. Gen. Thomas quietly and soldierly replied: 'Watkins, I've been there; and the truth is that I, too, have a sweetheart; and I have not seen her for more months than you have yours for many weeks. And, what is more, I have been married to my sweetheart, and want to see her as much as you do yours, and it is likely more. But I won't let her come to camp. A camp is no place for a wife. She is out of her element, and it softens man. And I won't go to see my wife till my duty is ended and the war over. What I will not do myself I will not allow you to do. Besides, I have a 'raid' to make in Mississippi and Alabama, and I decided this morning that you were the man to lead it. You will please report for duty at 6 A. M.'"

RESPECTS PAID BY THE TENNESSEE CONGRESSMEN.

At a meeting held at the Capitol in the city of Washington, D. C., on the 31st of March, 1870, by the delegation in Congress from the State of Tennessee, Hon. Wm. G. Brownlow was made chairman, and Hon. Samuel M. Arnell, secretary.

Hon. William B. Stokes, Hon. Isaac R. Hawkins, and Hon. William F. Prosser, were appointed to prepare for adoption a suitable preamble and resolutions, expressive of the respect felt for the memory of the late Major General George H. Thomas, who reported the following:

"In the death of Major General George H. Thomas, on the 29th day of March inst., in the city of San Francisco, the people of Tennessee have lost one of their greatest benefactors, and we, ourselves, one of our best friends. Our acquaintance with him began during the war. In August, 1861, he was promoted from the rank of colonel of cavalry in the regular army to that of brigadier general of volunteers, and assigned to duty at Camp Dick Robinson, in Kentucky. There the first regiments of Tennessee were placed under his command, and from that time until the close of the war he had the Tennessee troops. It is but repeating the uniform testimony of all who served under him, that a better soldier, and a more humane and considerate commander, or a more sincere, earnest, and upright man never led an army to the field. They fought under him at Mill Spring, Murfreesboro', Chicamauga, Missionary Ridge, through the Atlanta campaign, at Franklin, and at Nashville, and in numberless and nameless smaller engagements, and they found him always the same cool, self-possessed leader, the same wise and discreet strategist and tactician. It may be truly said of him that he never made a mistake and never lost a campaign or a battle.

At the close of hostilities he was assigned to the department including the State of Tennessee, with his headquarters at Nashville. His just and prudent administration had much to do in suppressing disturbances and restoring the State to comparative tranquility. She testified her appreciation of his worth by ordering struck in his honor a medal of gold, placing his portrait, executed in the best style of art at her command, in her Capitol, a perpetual memorial; and in further attestation of his great powers she nominated him as her choice for the high office of President of the United States. Her people mourn for him as for a father, while they unite with their countrymen to deplore the national bereavement. He was struck down in a moment, in the full vigor of his years and in the meridian of his fame. His loss is to his country among the greatest of her sorrows, his memory among the choicest of her treasures.

Resolved, That we feel the death of Major General George H. Thomas as a personal affliction, depriving us of one of our most honored and cherished friends, as a calamity to our State, removing one who had shed upon her soldiery the luster of his military renown, whose wisdom and moderation had saved her from great suffering and crime, and from whose friendly counsels her people had much to hope.

Resolved, That we unite in bearing testimony to his well-earned martial fame, his patriotic zeal in the service of his country, his great forbearance and self-restraint, his lofty and manly bearing, his stainless and unchallenged personal honor, and his purity, integrity, and great moral worth.

Resolved, That we recommend the people of Tennessee to perpetually cherish his memory, and to transmit it to their children honored and beloved.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to his afflicted widow, with assurance of our deepest sympathy.

Which, on motion of Hon. William J. Smith, was adopted, and ordered to be transmitted for publication in the Tennessee papers.

WM. G. BROWNLOW, Chairman.
S. M. ARNELL, Secretary.

THE FINAL OBSEQUIES AT TROY.

TROY, N. Y., April 8.—The obsequies of General Thomas took place to-day. The weather was fine, but the city wore a sombre aspect. Public and private buildings were draped in mourning, and the streets filled with people. All the morning, martial men marched to and fro to the beating of muffled drums, taking their places in the line of the funeral cortege. The President, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of War, General Sherman, the Congressional delegates, representatives of the army, Governor and Legislature of the State, citizens and dignitaries of all ranks in life were present to testify the nation's sense of its irreparable loss.

St. Paul's Church, where the exercises took place, was draped with American flags, bordered with crape, and emblems of grief met the eye in every part of the edifice.

Bishop Doane read the service. Professor Gay presided at the organ. The musical portion the of service included the hymn, "Brief is life," and "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

The procession then formed in the following order, and marched, to solemn music, to the cemetry:

Troops of the National Guard, State of New York, and Independent Military Organizations;
Escort, Composed of two Companies of Engineer Troops, four of the First United States Artillery, and two of the General Service Infantry;
Officiating Clergy;
Body;
Pall Bearers—Major Generals Meade, Rosecrans, Schofield, Hooker, Grainger, Hazen, and Brigadier General Mackey;
The President of the United States, Secretary of War, and General of the Army;
Two Bands of Music;
Committee of the Senate of the United States;
Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States;
Governors of the State of New York, and Legislature of the State of New York;
Judiciary of New York;
Committee Representing the City of New York;
The Clergy;
Society of the Army of the Cumberland;
Officers of Army, Navy and Marine Corps;
Volunteers of the War;
Corporate Authorities of the City of Albany;
Corporate Authorities of Schenectady;
Corporate Authorities of Troy;
Posts of The Grand Army of the Republic;
Civil Associations.

When the cemetery was reached the Episcopal committent service was read by Bishop Doane, when the procession returned to the church, and was dismissed.

The bids for conveying the mails on 3,359 routs in the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Arkansas, Minnesota, Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska, and three hundred and fifty-five miscellaneous routes in various other States, were opened at the Post-office Department, there being nearly twenty thousand proposals therefor. The awards for all the routes, except those in Iowa and Michigan, and those of the latter, including the miscellaneous routes, will be promulgated in a day or two. The bids this year are thirty per cent. more numerous than ever before.